GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Contents for Week of October 17, 1927. Vol. VI. No. 13

NOTE TO TEACHERS.—This is the first issue of the Geographic News Bulletins for the school year, 1927–28. No bulletins were issued during the summer vacation months.

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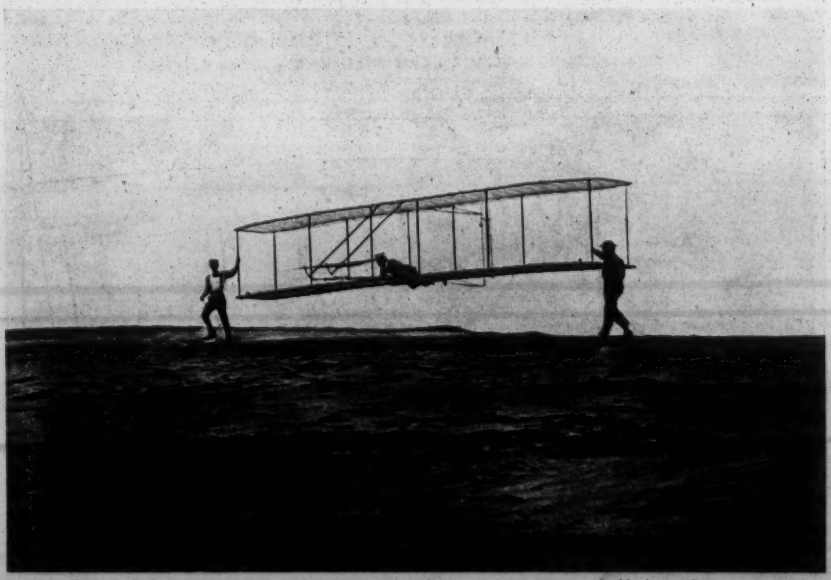
See, also, special notice on back of this cover page.



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THE WRIGHT GLIDER AT KITTY HAWK, NORTH CAROLINA, IN 1902

The Wright brothers used gliders to learn the fundamentals of air navigation before they sought to fly an engine-propelled airplane (see Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Evangeline's "Eden in Louisiana" Engulfed by Flood

THE UNITED STATES' "sixth Great Lake," the Lake of the Mississippi, larger than Ontario or Erie, engulfed the Evangeline country.

When the Mississippi River broke the Atchafalaya River's west dikes, the flood lake rolled its shores over and beyond St. Martin and St. Landry's parishes.

Again the Acadians were driven from their homes and the disaster was greater, by the number of sufferers, than that visited upon Evangeline's people in her time.

When Acadians Were Expelled from Nova Scotia

Only 8,000 Acadians were expelled from Nova Scotia in 1765 by Massachusetts and British bayonets to be scattered over the earth from Detroit to Corsica and Cayenne. Fifteen hundred of them found their way to New Orleans; many pushed on to Bayou Teche, 150 miles west. There they increased to some 150,000, occupying 15 parishes, or counties, when the flood spread over their homes, towns, and lands.

> "Beautiful is the land, with its prairies and forests of fruit trees:
> Under the feet a garden of flowers, and the bluest of heavens
> Bending above, and resting its dome on the walls of the forest.
> They who dwell there name it the Eden of Louisiana. . . .
> All year 'round the orange groves are in blossom; and grass grows
> More in a single night than a whole Canadian summer."

For a poet, Longfellow's geography is fairly good. Basil, the Acadian blacksmith, has become a herdsman in "Evangeline." Most of the refugees of 1765 did turn to stock raising with a few cattle given to them by charitable French merchants of New Orleans. Descendants of the Acadians gave up stock raising for sugar cane when Etienne de Bore, a Louisianian, discovered how to crystallize sugar from cane syrup. They have helped to make Atchafalaya Valley the Sugar Bowl of Louisiana.

A Poet's Description of Louisiana Geography

The route over which Longfellow takes Evangeline serves very well for a visitor to-day. Fifteen miles below Baton Rouge, where,

> "Sweeps with majestic curve the river away to the eastward,
> They, too, swerved from their course; and entering the Bayou of Plaquemine,
> Soon were lost in a maze of sluggish and devious waters."

This bayou admits to the "lakes of the Atchafalaya," where "water lilies in myriads rocked on the slight undulations," and rocked for years until the Mississippi broke through, threatening to make the Atchafalaya River its real mouth instead of an abandoned one.

How Evangeline got to Bayou Teche, the poem does not clearly relate. Many swamp lanes communicate. The Bayou Teche parallels the Atchafalaya, but it is a true river out of the reach of swamps and bordered by Druid oaks. The two early centers of Acadian settlement were Opelousas and St. Martinsville, on the banks of the Teche. The flood reached St. Martinsville for the first time in history and swirled at the foot of the "Evangeline" oak where her boatmen landed. An Acadian descendant gave the Evangeline oak, with 150 acres of land, for a State park.

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DISTANT TRIBUTARIES HELP MAKE LOWER MISSISSIPPI FLOODS

With 31 States and two Canadian provinces drained by the Mississippi and its half a hundred tributaries, it is easy to see why, in rainy years, there should be high water in the lower valley. In 1927 parts of seven States were inundated (see Bulletin No. 1). A description of the geography and effects of "The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927" will be found in the National Geographic Magazine for September, 1927.

A Gift to Education

THE GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS are a gift of the National Geographic Society to education. This is the first issue of 30 numbers, each containing five illustrated bulletins, to be mailed weekly during the current school year. The bulletins report the geography of recent events of world importance. They are available only to teachers. Each request should be accompanied by 25 cents to cover mailing costs for 30 issues. The following form may be used:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the Geographic News Bulletins for the school year beginning with the issues of.....for classroom use, to

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Address for sending Bulletins.....

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I am a teacher in.....school.....grade.

Many subscriptions expire with this issue. No further notice of expiration will be sent. Former subscribers are requested to renew promptly, otherwise files will be incomplete as back numbers cannot be supplied.

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Mankind's Quickest Conquest, That of the Air

THE CONQUEST of the Atlantic by Commander Byrd and Colonel Lindbergh emphasizes the amazing progress man has made in navigating the air.

It was in September, 1908, less than nineteen years before aviators were able to fly across the Atlantic, that the first public flight was made. The historic event took place at Fort Myer, Virginia, just across the Potomac from Washington, D. C., when Orville Wright's biplane rumbled down a creaky launching rail that looked like a chute-the-chute at a country fair, wobbled a bit in the air, and cruised around for 57½ minutes.

Has Tried Since Classic Times

Man never before achieved such progress in any engineering problem as he has attained in his conquest of the air. Since classic times he has dreamed of doing so, and for centuries he tried in vain to add a third dimension to his travels.

Yet, within fifteen years of the Wright brothers' first flights, the United States Navy's NC-4 crossed the Atlantic in the air, an army squadron flew from New York to Alaska, two army birdmen spanned the continent by a non-stop flight from New York to San Diego, and our mail planes had delivered letters in New York 26 hours and 11 minutes after they were postmarked in San Francisco.

The fifteenth anniversary of the Wright brothers' flight has been called the "golden flying year" for, in 1923, a navy aviator set a new dizzy speed mark of nearly 267 miles an hour, a faster pace than man had ever traveled; also a Frenchman ascended a mile higher than Mount Everest's unscaled summit, farther skyward than man had ever climbed; and two American military aviators made a new duration mark of more than 36 hours in the air, longer than man had remained aloft before.

The requirements of flying brought many collateral inventions.

An Epochal Flight

In March, 1924, two U. S. Army aviators flew from Dayton to Mineola without seeing ground for 450 miles of the 575-mile trip. That flight was epochal, for it marked the successful testing of the earth-inductor compass, the turn indicator, and the inclinometer, instruments which now enable the aviator to navigate amid the fog or above the clouds, independent of railroad, river, or highway marks.

It was the earth-inductor compass to which Lindbergh credited his success in keeping to his course.

Longest Air Mail Route

The dependability of the airplane has been demonstrated notably in the United States by the air mail route from New York to San Francisco—the longest air service line in continuous operation.

In 1922 air mail planes achieved aggregate flights of nearly two million miles without a single loss of life; in the following year they carried more than sixty-five million letters, traveled more than a million and a half miles, and

While to readers of "Evangeline" the inhabitants of Southwest Louisiana are still Acadians, to Louisianians they are 'Cajans or 'Cajuns, a corruption of Acadian. Four kinds of Frenchmen inhabit the State: the Creoles, natives of French and Spanish descent; Frenchmen, who were born in France; the San Domingan Creoles, and finally the Nova Scotian Acadians, the 'Cajans.

The typical Creole frequents the city; the 'Cajan remains a countryman. Rescue workers with experience in France found the 'Cajan very like the French farmer—conservative, loving his home and family, and attached to his property with such devotion that flood danger warnings cannot make him leave his lands.

The savor of the 'Cajan Coast comes to us even though we never travel there. It rises steaming from chicken gumbo soup—real gumbo soup—a 'Cajan creation. It rides on the blue smoke wreaths from many pipes, for perique tobacco is also a 'Cajan product.

Under the sad banners of Spanish moss, waving on Evangeline's oak at St. Martinsville, one hears a different ending to the story Longfellow has given us in verse.

Evangeline's real name was Emmeline la Biche, 'Cajans say, and Gabriel was Louis Arceneaux. They were deported on separate ships, but Emmeline landed in Maryland. Emmeline heard that Louis was in Louisiana, so she set out to reach him and, after many hardships, came to St. Martinsville.

Gabriel had gone, according to Longfellow, but Louis was there. In fact, local legend holds Emmeline rushed to Louis, the first person she saw at the landing.* Louis told her, gently, that he had despaired of seeing her again. He had married. When she heard this her arms slipped from his neck. Her mind became blank. Emmeline day by day grew more frail. She drooped and died. This is the 'Cajan story.

They buried her in the little churchyard near the tree where she found Louis. She has slept there undisturbed beside the bright bayou where bloom acres of sky-blue water-hyacinths in years when there is no flood.

Bulletin No. 1, October 17, 1927.

A SHEATH GOWN IN CAGUAS

In Porto Rico's delightful climate, where a tropic sun is tempered by clouds and trade winds, the family clothing budget can often ignore the children (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Sinaia: Summer Home of Rumania's Boy King

RUMANIA'S new 6-year-old King, Michael, has been given a palace of his own for his country home. It is named Castle Pelesh, at Sinaia, a beautiful resort in the pine-clad Carpathian Mountains, summer gathering place of Balkan aristocracy.

Winding drives lead to snow-white villas and modern hotels set against a background of forest and mountain. From their balconies and windows views of narrow valley and fir-clad hill are unsurpassed. Gay, gypsylike Rumanian music floats from bandstands, smart crowds gather in open-air restaurants, and far into the night the gaming rooms of the casino are crowded by the fashionable world of southeastern Europe.

The Resort Is of Recent Origin

This delightful valley in the Carpathians became popular less than fifty years ago when it was chosen as a refuge from the torrid summers of Bucharest by young Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, newly chosen King of Rumania, and his wife, Elizabeth of Neuwied, known to the literary world by her pen name of Carmen Sylva.

When the royal couple first visited this mountain fastness there was no summer palace built, and they stopped for weeks at a time at the Orthodox Greek Monastery near Sinaia built by Prince Michael Cantacuzene in the fifteenth century. The walls of the monastery apartment set aside for royal use are said to be still covered with caricature sketches of well-known court ladies, drawn by the queen.

So charmed were the new monarchs with the invigorating air and wild scenery of Sinaia that they set about the creation there of a summer court. King Charles supervised the erection of Castle Pelesh, the royal residence, on whose building, landscaping and furnishing he lavished millions. Pelesh is in the white stone-and-plaster, half-timbered, many-gabled German style, and looks more like a resort hotel in the Bavarian Alps than a castle in the English sense of the word. It is perhaps more adequately described by the French term, chateau.

The building, however, is in harmony with its background of evergreens and mountain peaks, and stands in a wooded park of great beauty. Its many rooms contain priceless art treasures from Europe and the Orient collected by King Charles throughout a long lifetime and added to by his successors Ferdinand and Marie. The throne room and reception halls are of Aladdinlike splendor.

Court Life Simple at Sinaia

In spite of this gorgeous background, court life has always been less formal at Sinaia than in Bucharest. It has been the custom of both Carmen Sylva and Queen Marie to wear native peasant costume while in residence.

It was at Sinaia that the royal family first heard the booming of the guns on the Hungarian frontier after Rumania's entry into the World War. The Transylvania frontier is a few miles away through the Carpathian passes.

Since the war Sinaia has become more popular than ever, not only among native aristocracy but with visitors from all eastern Europe. Rumania combines strains of Latin gaiety and gypsy romance which seem to meet in Sinaia. Rich

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completed all but 111 of the 7,847 trips attempted.

Lindbergh was a mail flyer, and he has paid generous tribute to the inventions of the Army and Navy Air Services which made his flight possible.

The flights of Byrd and Lindbergh are the most recent of a series of historic crossings of the Atlantic Ocean, some of which are:

Columbus: Sailed from Palos, Spain, August 3, 1492; arrived at San Salvador, October 12; time elapsed, 69 days.

Pilgrim Fathers: Sailed from Plymouth, England, September 6, 1620; arrived Cape Cod, November 9; time elapsed, 66 days.

Dreadnaught, Yankee Clipper Ship; sailed from New York, June 15, 1859, arrived Cape Clear, Ireland, on June 27; time elapsed, 12 days.

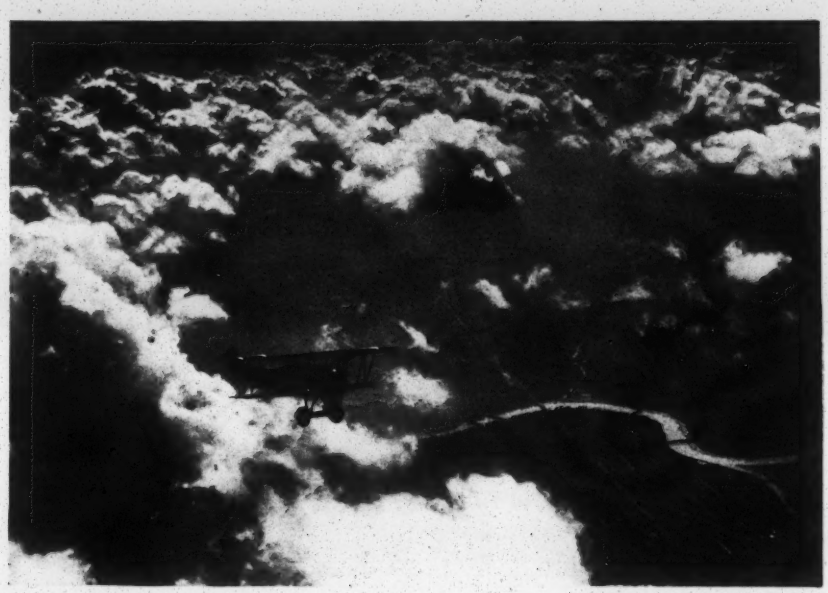
Savannah, first steamship to cross Atlantic, from Savannah, Georgia, to Liverpool, leaving Savannah May 24, 1819, crossing in 27 days.

Great Eastern, famous early steamship; sailed from Needles off Southampton, England, June 17, 1860; arrived New York, June 28; time elapsed, 9 days.

Mauretania, sailed from New York to Cherbourg, September, 1924; time elapsed, 5 days, 1 hour and 49 minutes.

Zeppelin dirigible ZR-3 (later *Los Angeles*); sailed from Friedrickshafen, Germany, October 12, 1924; arrived Lakehurst, N. J., October 15; time elapsed, 81 hours, 17 minutes.

British biplane (Alcock-Brown): Took off at St. Johns, N. F., June 14, 1919; arrived Clifden, Ireland, June 15; time elapsed, 16 hours, 12 minutes.



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AN AIRPLANE FLYING ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Mankind is accustomed to traveling on the surface of the ocean where, of course, he does not see the bottom. He has charts to guide him into channels and keep him off reefs and hidden rocks. Now, in the air, he is trying to devise ways of piloting himself above the clouds, and by night, without seeing the earth's surface. Can you describe any of the ways or instruments aviators are using to do this?

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The Story of Cork

SPANISH cork producers are learning with relief that progress and science often find new uses for old products when old uses are passing into the discard. They saw a marked slump in the demand for bottle stoppers a few years ago, especially in America, where the crimped metal cap with only a thin lining of cork has become the standby of the soft-drink industry. Cork prices dropped and producers saw ruin ahead.

Now, thanks to the growing use of cork in America in thousands of household refrigerating machines, radio instruments, and electrical devices, Spain has had her most prosperous cork year.

Trees "Skinned Alive"

The cork industry depends on the peeling of bark from living trees. The trees are a species of evergreen oak. They are literally "skinned alive," yet they have the valuable ability not only to continue to live but to set about immediately to grow new and better bark.

Spain is probably the best known source of cork, yet it is not the greatest cork-growing country. Portugal, with approximately a million and a half acres of cork groves, has twice the area devoted to cork growing by her eastern neighbor. North Africa also is an important factor in the growth of the bark. Algiers has nearly a million acres in cork oaks and Tunis about a quarter million acres. Small quantities are grown also in southern France and Italy.

However, in the actual production of cork for the market Spain and Portugal lead. These two countries have exported together recently about $18,000,000 worth of cork and cork products annually. Of this Spain ships the greater share measured by value, since nearly all Spanish shipments are of manufactured products, while Portugal exports mostly crude cork. Nearly $6,000,000 worth of cork is imported into the United States annually. The other principal users are Great Britain, France and Germany.

Eight Years Between Harvests

There are few crops for which one has to wait longer than for cork. If the best practice is followed, trees are not given their first stripping until they are twenty years old. This first crop is coarse and practically worthless. It is used chiefly as a source of tannin and to make rough bark baskets for ferns, and the like. The owner of a cork oak grove must wait eight or nine years after the first stripping for his second harvest of cork. This second crop is better than the first but is still considered of poor quality. There must be an interval of bark growth of eight or nine years between all succeeding harvests.

Meanwhile, the quality of the cork is steadily improving. If the bark is removed carefully so that the underlying tissue is not injured, the trees thrive and continue to produce their harvest until they are 150 years old or more.

When the bark comes from the trees it is in trough-shaped pieces ½ to 2½ inches thick and several feet long. After drying for a few days the pieces are boiled in water and weighted down until they assume a flat shape. These flat slabs are baled and shipped from the country or sent to domestic factories.

owners of landed estates have been hard hit by agrarian reforms, but many seem still able to maintain magnificent white villas at the summer capital, and their number is constantly being added to by those newly rich from post-war development.

Paris Costumes Seen in Mountain Resort

On Sinaia's tree-shaded promenades are seen costumes fresh from the Rue de la Paix. Gay youths in flannels play tennis with girls in embroidered blouses, their hair held in place by colorful gypsy scarfs. Inviting bridle paths lead through the forest to mountain retreats of solemn grandeur. At the casino the wheel of fortune spins, and each evening in the adjoining ballroom music plays far into the night.

This remote Carpathian Valley, in the shadow of the old Cantacuzene monastery, has seen during the last half century the surprising growth of one of Europe's gayest summer capitals. High upon the hillside above, embowered in gardens, lies the royal residence of Pelesh, built by the German monarch of a Latin country and redolent with the memory of an English queen. Now its gorgeousness is the property of a boy of six.

Bulletin No. 3, October 17, 1927.

SORTING PALMS FOR AMERICAN STRAW HATS

In the mountain towns of Nayarit, one of the richest States of Mexico, the leaves of a certain low palm tree are gathered and dried for shipment to northern hat factories. Can you name other products which we purchase from nations of the Spanish-speaking world? (see Bulletin No. 5).

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The Spanish-speaking World

ESTABLISHMENT of a center for Spanish interests in New York emphasizes the fact that Spanish-speaking people constitute one of the great language groups of the world, vying with German-speaking and Russian-speaking peoples for the place next to the English-speaking peoples, the acknowledged leaders in numbers. A major portion of the great Spanish-speaking world which exists to-day largely lies next door to the United States.

The adventurers and gold-seekers who rushed westward in the footsteps of Columbus had soon carved out for Spain all the West Indies, most of South America, and large areas in Central and North America. The island of Hispaniola, now called both Santo Domingo and Haiti, was the focus from which Spanish influences radiated. Jamaica and Cuba soon came under Spain's wing, then the Isthmus of Panama, Florida, and the coast of Argentina were reached in 1513. The same year Balboa crossed the Isthmus, waded into the Pacific and claimed it and all its bounding lands for Spain. Six years later the Spaniards sent Magellan across this newly found ocean. He found little land in crossing but did set up a Spanish claim to the Philippines which Spain later made a colony.

How Spanish Control Spread in the New World

In the meantime Spanish control was spreading in the New World. The conquest of Mexico began in 1519. Panama City was founded the same year and became a starting point for expeditions north and south along the shores of the Pacific. Peru was invaded in 1532, and Chile came at least partly under control soon after. The California coast was explored in 1542, and land expeditions went about the same time into regions that are now New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and even Colorado. Settlements had previously been established in Venezuela and Colombia on the Caribbean coast of South America.

At the same time Spain was the great power of Europe, controlling the Low Countries, much of Italy, and later Portugal with all her eastern empire. But over all these European and eastern portions of her empire Spain had only tenuous control, and when the empire broke up they passed on to new or old sovereignties, little colored by Spanish culture. Spain made her deepest impression on her New World territories and on the Philippines. These regions fell heir to the Spanish language, religion, law, customs and architecture; and in them these factors remain to-day as Spanish as in the mother country.

About Half as Many Speakers of Spanish as of English

The Spanish-speaking world to-day covers about 5,000,000 square miles and numbers between 90 million and 100 million people. There are thus roughly half as many speakers of Spanish as of English.

In exploring the Spanish-speaking world the logical starting place is Spain, fountainhead of the forces that have influenced one-eleventh of the earth's land area. And of course the explorer takes his course westward as did Spain's empire. On the west coast of Africa four patches of territory are encountered where the Spanish flag as well as Spanish influences rest. Offshore are the

From Cigarette Tips to Floor Coverings

Cork is best known in the form of bottle stoppers. It was used by the Romans to plug wine containers. When glass bottles came into general use during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the cork stopper industry grew important. This primary use continues, but many new uses have been added. To-day cork is made into floats for fishing nets and lines, and into washers and insulators for various devices.

It is used in life preservers, refrigerators, artificial limbs, hat linings, and as inner soles for shoes. Glass is polished with it; cut to paper thinness it is made into cigarette tips; and ground, the coarser grades are used as a packing for china and for fresh fruit. A growing use in recent years has been as an ingredient for the manufacture of linoleum. Cork is ground very fine for this purpose, and the lower grades can be used.

Bulletin No. 4, October 17, 1927.

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A CORK-STRIPPER AT WORK

The life of a cork tree is from 80 to 150 years. A tree 20 years old will produce 11 pounds of virgin bark. Can you make a list of ten industrial uses of cork?

Canary Islands. There the Spanish flag is left behind; to such small proportions has the political realm of Spain shrunk.

The next bit of the Spanish world encountered lies in the New World. It is Uruguay, smallest republic of South America, where the children of Spain are carrying on the culture of the mother country. Beyond, eight other countries—all those of South America save Portuguese Brazil and British, French, and Dutch Guiana—fall, too, under the banner of Spanish culture.

Porto Rico Colored by Spanish Culture

In the West Indies there have been defections. Trinidad and the Leeward and Windward Islands, although once all claimed by Spain, have lost or never felt Spanish culture. Over Porto Rico the flag of the United States flies, but it is still a part of the Spanish world. Spain is dominant in blood, traditions, and language. In old Hispaniola, where the Spanish seed was first planted in the New World, the eastern half of the island still shows strongly the Spanish impress. This is the Dominican Republic, where language and law are still Spanish. But in the western half of the island, covered by the Republic of Haiti, Spanish culture succumbed to that of France and Africa.

Jamaica, once a stronghold of Spain, has long been dominated by British culture; and the Bahamas, claimed by Spain, have known only British influences. Cuba has been independent of Spanish political power since 1898 but is still culturally a part of Spain—the most Spanish of the West Indian Islands.

Through the Isthmus of Panama, Central America, and Mexico, Spanish cultural influences sweep unbroken as they have for the past three centuries and more. Florida shows little effect of her former Spanish ownership save in a few architectural touches and a few geographic names. Texas, too, was lost to Spain, but the effects there are greater; and in many a community near the Rio Grande the Spanish language is almost as necessary as the English. In Arizona and California, once under Spanish influences, the situation is much like that in Texas.

New Mexico Most Spanish of States

But one American State stands on a different footing. New Mexico has barely passed the point at which its English-speaking influences weigh more heavily than its Spanish factors. Only a few years ago it could have been listed as a part of the Spanish world. Then its legislature was conducted in Spanish or in the two tongues, and Spanish was the current language on street and range and farm. As it is, the beam has tipped only a little; the interpreter is still an important person in the courts, and it is easy enough to find communities in the State in which, if one speaks no Spanish, he can make himself understood only through some school child. These youngsters are being taught English now in the public schools and in a few generations will no doubt turn the scale overwhelmingly to English speech.

Continuing westward, one finds no further traces of Spain's world-wide empire until he reaches the Philippines. There, in spite of the mixture of blood, Spanish culture took firm hold, at least in the non-Mohammedan country. Spanish customs, laws and architecture will no doubt color life in the Philippines for many years to come. In speech, however, the passing of Spanish influence may not be so long delayed if the United States continues to govern the islands. Already English is in about as general use as Spanish, and if present educational methods continue the Philippines may yet join Jamaica and California as regions definitely lost to the Spanish world.